



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 7, 2007**

#07-129

**WASHINGTON WOMAN SENTENCED TO 60 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR ATTEMPTED POSSESSION OF APPROXIMATELY 6,200 ECSTASY TABLETS WITH
THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on September 7, 2007, Shannon Melissa Gross, of Kent, Washington, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 60 months in prison for attempting to possess ecstasy with the intent to distribute.

Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick imposed the sentence on Gross, age 31.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Shawn C. Fuller, on or about February 15, 2007, Gross attempted to possess with the intent to distribute approximately 6,200 ecstasy tablets, which were concealed inside a Federal Express parcel that she mailed to an address in Anchorage. Following her arrest, law enforcement officers determined that Gross bought the ecstasy in Washington, packaged it, and sent it to Anchorage with the intent to sell it. According to information provided to the court by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the ecstasy had an estimated street value of up to \$155,000.

Judge Sedwick considered the defendant's criminal history and the nature of the charges against her before sentencing her to 60 months imprisonment.

Mr. Cohen commended the coordinated effort by the Drug Enforcement Administration Interdiction Task force, the Anchorage Police Department, and the Alaska State Troopers Major Offender's Unit, who conducted the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Gross.

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